



# TOKEN HUNTER



Vol. 3, No. 5

A publication of the NATIONAL UTAH TOKEN SOCIETY,  
P.O.Box 26246, South Salt Lake City, Utah 84126

Dedicated to the Collecting, Recording, and Preservation  
of Tokens and Medals.



## MAY

Luck is a crossroad  
where preparation and  
opportunity meet.

The merry, merry month of MAY is here  
And plans have all been made  
Far camping in old FRISCO town  
Where there's no natural shade!

So, pack your gear and think of this---  
You'll never find a place more dry!  
Bring lots of food, but don't forget,  
Of WATER you'll need a large supply!!

We'll look for bottles, and for coins,  
And hunt for tokens new;  
We'll laugh and talk with all our friends,  
We hope YOU'LL be there too!!!

Every new discovery  
begins with curiosity.

Anyone can call a coin a fake,  
but it takes a real expert to  
say that a coin is genuine!

Don't join encounter groups----  
If you enjoy being made to feel  
inadequate, just call your mother!

Things turn out the best  
for those who make the best  
of the way things turn out.

Somedays you get what you want,  
Somedays you get what you need.  
Somedays you get what you get.



Happiness is found along the way---  
not at the end of the road.

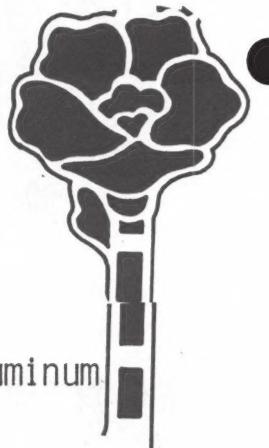
Don't forget to get your tickets for the drawing May 24th-----

Someone will win---why not you?

\*\*\*\*\*

Items for the May 24th Drawing

1. Cottonwood Dairy, G.F. 1 qt. milk, Brass
2. Jap Rose Soap token, Aluminum
3. Elongated cent, Mt. St. Helen's, 1980
4. Seattle World's Fair Medal, 1962, Bronze
5. Bob Harris A.V.A. token, Plastic F.D.R. Game Coin, Aluminum
6. Five different Utah Video Game Tokens.
7. 1945 Mexico 2 Pesos coin, Gold.



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INTERESTING NOTES FROM.....

Back in the late 1800's, an old prospector arrived in the area near Recapture Creek, in southeastern Utah near Monticello, San Juan County. He was looking for a long-lost Spanish mine. What he apparently found was a source of eight inch long ingots of gold! No digging, no smelting, just gold bars!!

The old fellow (name lost in the veil of time) continued to live simply in a shack near Recapture Creek. When he needed to buy things in Monticello or Blanding, he just cut a chunk off one of his gold bars to use in place of cash. He wouldn't tell the other settlers where his source of gold was located--which indicates he was no dummy!! He did say that it was Aztec gold, Montezuma's treasure, which had been hidden long ago from the Spaniards. In 1905, a young cowboy, Andy Laney, stopped at Recapture Creek to water his horse and noted a shiny object in the water. Pulling it out, he found it was a gold bar, similar to those found by the old hermit, eight inches long and about an inch thick! On it was the worn imprint of a cross and some Roman numerals. Laney rushed into town and sold the bar for \$1,800; quit his job and became a prospector. Taking a friend with him, Laney hunted the creek area in an effort to add to his good fortune. After a month of hunting in vain, they became discouraged and ready to return to cowpunching, when the friend, Elmer Blaine, ran across another gold bar in the sand under an overhanging cliff, about 30 yards from the creek. Hurriedly scratching through the sandy soil, they found four more bars, plus a chunk of fused gold larger than a baseball!! Of course this called for a wild celebration so off they went to Durango for fun and games. Blaine was unfortunately killed when he happened to be standing between two gunfighters when they opened fire and he stopped a fatal bullet. Laney did go back and search but found nothing and was reported killed by Indians on the sacred Navajo Mountain.

In 1964, however, another bar was found by relic hunters using a metal detector. And in 1979, two more were found by a camping party with metal detectors. Possibly more are waiting for treasure seekers. More details on this treasure can be found in Thompson's "Some Dreams Die."

(from May 1984 issue, Treasure)

FROM OUR PRESIDENT.....



Dear NUTS:

I've heard lots of stories about club members and non-members digging in Utah's ghost towns but for the most part it was frustrating work with very few returns. I hope no one gives up because, who knows, next time you might strike it rich.

I heard from someone (can't remember who) that an old house was being torn down in Cedar City and that 2,000 to 3,000 tokens were found. No one yet knows just what kind they are or how old, but I sure would like to meet the guy!

Another good true story I heard from Ed Gomez, who is a good customer of mine. He said that a friend of his just found a Mormon \$2½ gold piece. Ed asked him where but the guy just said, "in the mountains." The only other information that Ed got was that it was found with a metal detector around an old adobe brick house somewhere in the mountains. Examination of the gold piece revealed that about 1/10th of the coin had been cut off near the top but that the rest of the coin was in good shape. Ed said he would try to get his friend to come in and talk with me so I can document the story. I hope to be able to tell the club more about it because it's a great find for a treasure hunter.

This month's guest speaker will be David Freed. If anyone doesn't know Dave yet, all you have to do is just say you have a new Utah town token and you will be hearing from him in a very short time!! Dave owns the biggest and best token collection in Utah. Many of the token rubbings you see in Harry Campbell's token book belong to David Freed. He has been collecting for years and says he loves every minute of finding and learning about new tokens. The only part he doesn't like is when someone beats him to a good token! When I talk to other dealers of tokens and medals from other states almost always they say, "a guy named David Freed just bought them from me." He is a great friend and a good member of NUTS. Dave is sorry he can't attend all the meetings that he would like to because business calls him out of town. I asked him to talk about his friends that made or issued the tokens and medals he now owns and also to tell us some of the history about them. I am sure we will all enjoy hearing from him.

In June, our guest speaker will be De Kelsey. He lives in Nephi and specializes in the southern part of Utah. More about this next month.

We would like to thank Les Carrigan for his April talk about Bingham Canyon and the surrounding area. I know I enjoyed all the personal stories he related about the men who issued tokens from that mining town.

In order to help the club grow and become stronger every meeting, I need the help of every club member. Attending meetings is one way to help and, remember, if you see someone new, introduce yourself and say hello. Encouragement from older members may bring them back.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, continued:

I certainly hope everyone who possibly can will go down to Frisco this month on our official May dig. I've heard that there are tokens, coins, bottles and relics to be found. Plus, we will have a great time in the outdoors with fresh air and good friends to keep us company.

As you know, we planned to have an Auction every other month and this month (May) is an auction month. Since no one has, as yet, contacted me about items for the auction, I can't tell you what will be available. As club members you can just bring any items you wish to dispose of to the meeting on May 24th and display them before and during the meeting. At the end of the meeting, we'll hold the auction. The number of items will be limited to 5 per member and 25 lots.

Let us welcome Bob Uzelac as a new member to our club. Bob was with us last month and joined. He is the owner of the Treasure Cove coin shop in Provo and is also an active collector of all types of Utah tokens.

The other day, Carol and I and a few club members were talking and we thought up what we thought would be the ultimate Utah token! It would be of bi-metal, gold and silver, with the Mormon temple in the center, with Madman's Saloon and Cat House, good for a good time all night and for anything you want, from Iosepa, Utah, dated 1865, with 24 scallops and 3 inches across!! If you should ever find it exists, I'll offer \$1,000 cash for it!!

Keep on looking,

Bob Campbell,  
President NUTS

\* \* \* \* \*



EDITOR'S NOTE:

The last paragraph of Bob's message (above) just shows you what fantasies dreamers can come up with!! I can understand why he would offer \$1,000 for such a token, but it wouldn't do him any good because if such a token existed, Dave Freed would buy it first!!

I want to thank the club members for the kind things said about the April Token Hunter and to remind them that I need their help to get items of interest to the club to put in the paper. Not only would I like to hear about any new finds (whether by digging or not) but I would like to include rubbings of any new tokens or coins in the Token Hunter--especially if they were previously unlisted. Also, while compliments are wonderful for the ego, I also need any complaints or suggestions for improvement from you to make the Token Hunter truly representative of the National Utah Token Society. Please let me hear from you!

Edith Attebury



## TALES OF OLD FRISCO

Looks like spring is here at last and that means it's time to rid ourselves of that "ole cabin fever" and enjoy the vast open spaces at our Club outings. Our May outing is a 3 day camp trip to the old boomtown of Frisco, Utah down in Beaver County.

Frisco sprang to life in 1875 when two prospectors, Samuel Hawks and James Ryan, were working a small claim on Grampion Hill. One day, while hiking to or from their claim, they discovered a rocky ledge. Not wanting to leave any stone unturned in their search for wealth, they investigated. Chipping away at the ledge and almost bursting with excitement, they exposed a rich vein of silver ore. As soon as they had filed on their new claim, they began sinking a shaft. In 1876, the shaft was about 25 ft. deep with plenty of good ore in sight so they sold their claim for \$25,000 to A.G.Campbel, Denis Ryan, Mat Cullen and A. Byram. The new owners began working the mine and discovered that it was the apex of a giant outcrop of nearly pure silver. It was so soft it could be cut with a knife and then it curled like an animal horn. Thus they named the mine the Horn Silver and after working it for a short time, they sold the mine at a price of \$5,000,000 (that's right, 5 million dollars!) to Jay Cooke, owner of the Great Northern Railroad, and some other investors in 1879. Only half the money changed hands because the old owners remained in the company when they incorporated in 1879 and became the Horn Silver Mining Company of Utah.

By 1880, Frisco's population had reached about 1,000 comprised of many different nationalities. Numerous businesses were established - among them were the Southern Hotel (owned and operated by J.J.Ferron), B.F.Grant's General Store, and Ormond and Lovett's Cigar Store as well as many others, including some 21 of the ever-present mining camp saloons. The saloons dealt not only in liquor but housed almost every kind of gambling device known to man. With the usual mining camp houses of ill repute, opium dens, and saloons, it was Dodge City, Tombstone, Sodom and Gomorrah all rolled into one. There was nothing else like it anywhere!

On June 25, 1880, an extension of the Southern Utah Railroad reached Frisco and people from all walks of life converged on this new and very promising camp with one thing in mind - to gain their share of the new town's wealth. The population soon soared to somewhere between 4,000 and 6,000 people. Among the new arrivals came many of the undesirable element, such as gamblers, gunmen, prostitutes and thugs. Frisco soon gained a reputation for being a wild and wide open mining town. Crime and violence was almost a way of life. Christmas Day wasn't even safe from deadly gunplay for on that day in 1880, with bad feelings already existing between the two, a gambler named Curby and another man named Thomas were prevented from gun battle in the morning by interference from some bystanders. They met later that afternoon at Pat Maloy's saloon. Thomas was leaning against a support pillar on the porch when Curby, standing by the door, started a verbal assault against Thomas. Calling him all kinds of obscenities, Curby told Thomas to step into the street if he wasn't a coward. Thomas did - with gun in hand - and Curby, in turn, stepped into the saloon. Thomas followed receiving a gunshot in the arm as he stepped through the door. In retaliation, Thomas shot twice striking Curby in the head and killing him instantly.

(continued on Page 6)

Complaints were received almost daily about the existence of a place in town where (with the help of drugged drinks in some of the town's saloons) the victims were taken to and were severely beaten and robbed.

In 1882, one of Frisco's "soiled doves", accidentally set herself ablaze by falling asleep while smoking in bed. Her companion fortunately awoke and doused the flames, saving her from serious injury.

Another problem encountered by Frisco's residents was due to the town being located in such a highly mineralized and arid terrain that water was scarce. Water that was good for cooking and drinking cost 4¢ per gallon and had to be freighted in until the railroad arrived and they began to ship in water by tank car.

The Horn Silver Mining Company was paying their miners about \$3.50 per day which was better pay than some of the other mines but the living conditions for the miners were very poor. Many lived in small shanty shacks filled with cracks through which mud, snow, and cold winds blew in. The shanties were furnished with just the bare essentials, such as a bed, small table, and a mud and stone fireplace for heating. Other necessities had to be purchased from the Company store. Due to the high content of lead in the mines, many of the miners and teamsters that hauled the ore developed lead poisoning.

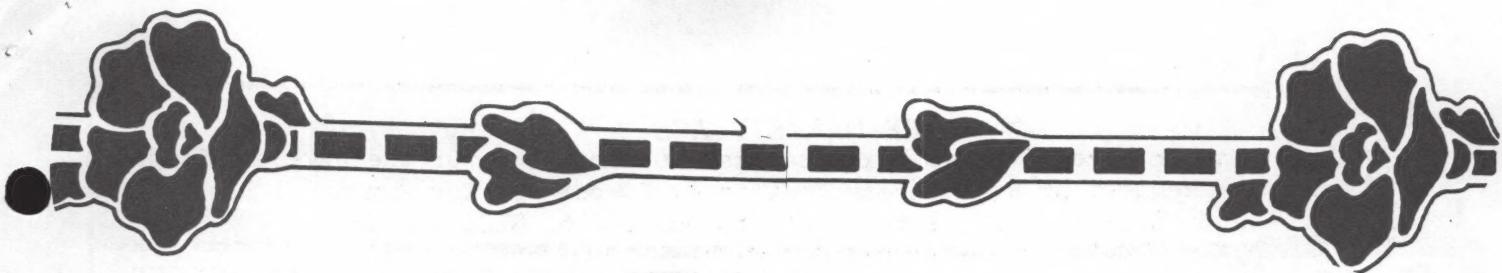
Suddenly it all came to an end. Early in 1885 as the night shift had just come up the main shaft of the Horn Silver mine, the foreman realized the ground was shuddering beneath him. Instead of sending the next crew down, he held back. A few minutes later, with a thundering roar that broke windows as far away as Milford, the entire mine caved in from bottom to top! Since most of the miners in Frisco worked at that mine when they left after the cave-in, the population was drastically reduced which had a very depressing effect on business in town and signalled the end of Frisco's boomtown days. By 1888, the population had dropped to about 250 people. Although Frisco would linger on approximately 30 to 40 more years, she would never again enjoy the prosperity or know the wild days of her short and violent boomtown life.

We will be sharing the remains of this townsite with the ghosts of the frontier past for 3 days over the Memorial Day Weekend, May 26, 27, & 28. Anyone who wants to leave Friday, May 25th, should contact George Wilson at 250-7052 as he plans on going down Friday evening. The rest of us will be leaving Saturday morning early and plan to meet at the Redwood Multipurpose Center between 5:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. WE WILL LEAVE PROMPTLY AT 6:00 A.M.

We will travel south on Redwood Road (Utah 68) continuing south on the west side of Utah Lake until you reach Elberta. At Elberta, turn right on to Highway 6 and continue through Eureka to Delta passing through Delta on Highway 6. Approximately 4½ miles past Delta you will reach Highway 257 where you turn south. Continue on south through Deseret to Milford and drive through Milford until you see the Ely turnoff Highway 21. Turn west on Highway 21. About 17 miles will bring you to the Frisco townsite. BRING PLENTY OF WATER! If you have any questions, call me at 972-6884 or our President, Bob Campbell at 467-8636. We will also, of course, have our May 24th meeting just prior to the Frisco trip.

Bryan Moulton, Wagon Master





We need input from the members concerning items to be used in the regular monthly drawings. Be thinking about what kind of items you want to take chances on.

Do you like having several comparatively inexpensive pieces and one or, perhaps, two more expensive ones?

Or would you rather have only one or two really good pieces with a high rarity value?

Or, maybe, you would like an even mixture: 2 very good and 2 ordinary?

THINK ABOUT IT - WE'LL BE ASKING YOU VERY SOON!



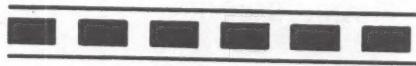
We would like to put together a NUTS directory of names, addresses, telephone numbers, and special interests for the convenience of the officers and members in contacting each other. If you DO NOT WISH to be included even though the directory would be for Token Club use only, please let Edith know. Of course, if several disapprove, we will drop the idea.



We had 38 people in attendance at the April meeting! That's pretty good but with summer coming on, many people will have family outings that will conflict with meetings so let's try to get as many old members to attend meetings as possible. Now is also a very good time to get new members when we have so many interesting trips planned ahead. Search your memory for friends and/or relatives that might be interested in Tokens and other Exonumia---new members will help keep the NUTS alive and perking!!

Now that we are beginning a season of outings and digs, some of which are official Club outings and some of which will be casual get-togethers with two or three members or families, we need to put into words a sort of "unwritten law" dealing with courtesy.

All of us are excited at the prospect of finding a good "hot" location and when we find a place that begins to look good, it's wonderful to share the excitement with the others in our group. However, we need to remember when going over to congratulate a fellow member who has just found something interesting that it is just common courtesy to leave a reasonable amount of space around his "dig" for him. No matter how friendly we are with each other, if you begin to dig within a very few feet of another member's "find", bad feelings can result. To avoid such problems, perhaps we can put this idea into a sort of by-law and keep printing it in the Token Hunter and mentioning it in meetings until it becomes a habit with all of us.



George Hosek, 7411 Idledale Lane, Omaha, Nebraska (who was mentioned in our MARCH 1984 issue) has written and advised that he still has available a few copies of the NEBRASKA TOKEN TOWN RARITY booklet at \$5 postpaid. To obtain a copy, write directly to Mr. Hosek at the above address, zip code 68112. For anyone interested in tokens in general, or in Nebraska tokens, this looks like a good buy.



Harold Franke showed us the 12½ cent Gatley Bros. token from Eureka which he found in Silver City at the April meeting. As usual, there were many envious looks and jealous remarks passed. Unfortunately some of them were your Editor's!!



### \* \* THE MARKETPLACE \* \*

One or more of these box areas may be purchased for the Buy-Sell-Trade by Members or Non-Members. Cost is \$4.00 per box for 2 months. Send Ad and check by 10th of the month to Box 26246, SLC, Ut. 84126



## Wanted:

Set of PEOPLE's CO-OP TOKENS,  
LEHI, UTAH

Also,

Any AMERICAN FORK or  
PLEASANT GROVE TOKENS

Have cash or tokens for trade

TOM LOADER

**1-756-9149**

### FOR SALE    FOR SALE

Two UNLISTED tokens, both R-4's

WILL BE FOR SALE AT CLUB MEETING  
FOR \$10.00 FOR TWO.

See      FRANK SOMMER

### WANTED: MORMON MEDALS AND TOKENS,

Especially Pioneer Jubilee medals  
of 1897 and tokens with the Mormon  
Temple on the reverse.

I am putting together a catalog of  
all known "Mormon" medals & tokens  
and any information would be very  
helpful.

BOB CAMPBELL  
Wally's Coin Shop  
1123 East 2100 South  
S.L.C., Utah  
467-8636

BUY, SELL, TRADE-COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS

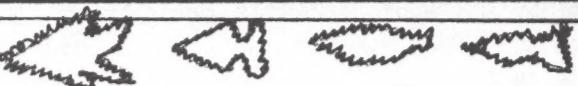
## RUST COIN

Specializing in MORMON GOLD,  
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5 FRAMES SOUTH EASTERN  
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12" x 18" FRAMES \$100.00 EACH  
OR ALL FIVE FOR \$400.00

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H A V E   Y O U   P A I D   Y O U R   D U E S   F O R   1 9 8 4 ?



Dues should be paid as soon as possible after the first of each year.

Please enroll my FAMILY      or      just ME      as a N. U. T. S. member.

(Yearly dues: \$12.00 (family) or      \$7.50 (single)

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

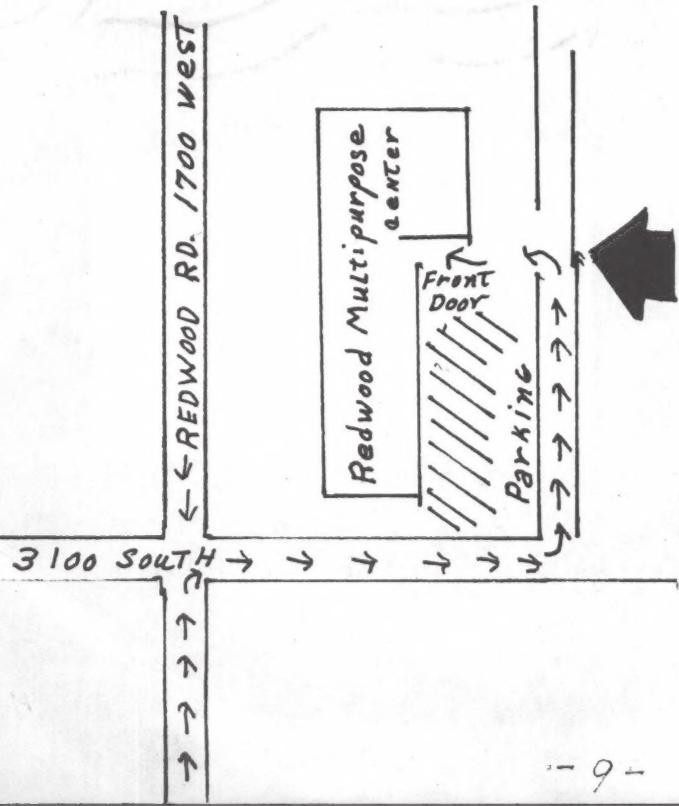
CITY..... STATE..... ZIP.....

TELEPHONE.....

MAIL TO: NATIONAL UTAH TOKEN SOCIETY  
P.O.BOX 26246  
South Salt Lake City, Ut. 84126

Make checks payable to N.U.T.S.

(or bring with you to the meeting)



*National Utah Token Society*

*P.O. Box 26246  
So Salt Lake City.*

*Utah 84126*

*801 467-8636 day*

Meetings usually held at 7:15 pm  
on 4th Thursday of each month.

**REDWOOD MULTIPURPOSE  
CENTER, 3100 SOUTH  
REDWOOD ROAD, S.L.C.**